

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) During the period from 1995-96 to 1999-2000, as a whole, the prices of drugs and medicines as measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number (base 1993-94 = 100) has increased by 68.27% (17.07% per annum). The common reasons for rise in prices of medicines in general are rise in prices of raw materials, transport/freight charges, change in foreign exchange rates, changes in taxes and duties etc.

Gift to Doctors and Chemists by drug Companies

†3023. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that drug companies are giving huge margin discounts and very costly gifts to doctors and chemists;

(b) whether it is as per provision of DPCO;

(c) whether it is a bribe;

(d) whether Government's attention has also been invited towards a news item appearing in the Dainik Jagran of 21st January, 2001, under the caption "Doctorn ka Dawa Companion se Commission Lena Sharmanak", if so, whether Government have any evidence in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what action is being taken for such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) For scheduled drugs and formulations, the permissible margins are regulated under the provisions of the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The retail prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations are fixed by the manufacturers. Gifts to doctors and chemists do not come under purview of DPCO '95.

(d) and (e) The news item refers to, among other things, Prime Minister's observations regarding Commission taken by Physicians from Pharmaceutical Companies and the need to eradicate such malpractice by doctors themselves and not by law.

Appointment/Posting of SC/ST persons

3024. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians, in their representations submitted to Prime Minister on 17.12.1996, 1.9.1997 and 23.7.1998 had demanded appointment/posting of SCs/STs to important posts/positions in higher echelons of administration;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of persons appointed/posted Chief Executives, Official/Non-Official members of Board of Directors/Governing Councils of all Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous and Statutory Organisations under the Ministry during the last five years; and

(d) the SCs and STs among them and their percentage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Memoranda submitted by the Parliamentary Forum for SCs and STs urged the Government of India to take comprehensive measures for development of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and, *inter-alia*, requested for posting of suitable persons belonging to the SCs/STs to posts of importance such as Governors, Ambassadors, Members of Planning Commission, Secretaries to the Government of India, Members of the UPSC, PESB, Directors of PSUs etc.

The Policy, as enunciated in the resolution No. 27(21)EO/86(ACC) dated 3.3.1987 constituting the Public Enterprises Selection